



TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Newington Volunteer Fire Department

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners

Regular Meeting

February 13, 2008

Fire Headquarters

1485 Main Street

Newington, CT 06111

7:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ATTENDANCE

Commissioner's Ziegler,& Jascowski

Chief Chris R. Schroeder

Asst. chief Tom Lapierre-Excused

DC Tom Gill

DC Vic Depamphilis-Excused

DC Frank Papa-Excused

Councilor Jay Bottalico

Captain Jeff Kobylarz

F/F Paul Lach

F/F Conrad Desjardin

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

IV. Communications

Communications were read and accepted.

V. LEDGER STATUS

Ledger Status was accepted as presented.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

The Pay-per-Call program was discussed with the Chief, Town Manager and Finance Director. The budget was reviewed. The Commission has received a letter from the Town Attorney referencing the Pay-Per-Call program as it applies to the town employee's and if they are eligible to receive payment for calls while working at their town jobs. Commissioner Ziegler stated that the town attorney found no issue with that.

The Chief's laptop, along with Engine #2 are up and running. The lap top for Engine#3 is currently being loaded by Deputy Chief Papa and should be on line shortly.

We are waiting for the modems for the other thirteen units and the project is moving along slowly. Application has been made for an extension.

The Rules and Regulations are being prepared and will be reviewed by the Chief and then presented to the Board for approval.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The only issue under new business was the need for the Fire Commissioner's having portable radios. Commissioner Ziegler made a motion that the Commissioners were to retain the radios. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jascowski. Motion Passed.

Chief Chris Schroeder explained that the Command Staff (Asst. Chief, three Deputy Chiefs and four Captains) had discussed this Issue at length and they were in agreement to discontinued the use of portable radio's by Commissioners and that the radio's were for operational purposes and emergency communications only. There is no policy stating the Commissioners should have radios and no justification for it. The Chief had previously requested that the radios be returned, but a motion to keep the radios having just passed the Chief has requested not only a ruling on the motion from the Town Attorney, but who has the authority over operational issues in the department.

Commissioner Ziegler stated that the Town Charter states the Board of Fire Commissioners is responsible for all department vehicles. Chief Schroeder pointed out that even though that may be true, a Commissioner who isn't a active member of this department cannot drive a fire truck to a fire.

These are elected officials that may or may not be in the active fire service and they are not entitled to radios. It's a poor policy and the Chief would like a ruling from the Town Attorney.

Until a decision is reached the two radios may be retained but no further radios will be issued until a formal decision is made.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

IX. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Jascowski thanked the department for the card he received when his father passed away.

Commissioner Ziegler expressed his disappointment in the department for not attending the services for Commissioner Jascowski's father recently. He requested that more of an effort be made to show support for each other during these times.

Chief Schroeder expressed his concern also, and stated that it can be very difficult to attend services due to time constraints, previous commitments, and work schedules. He expressed his sympathy again on behalf of the department and stated that Department, Inc. will be making a donation in memory of his father.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

